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RECD APR 7

TO : Department of State

755.00/4-150

FROM : MOSCOW 391 April 1, 1950

XR 755.11
761.61

REF : Embassy's Telegram No. 934, March 24, 1950

SUBJECT : TRANSMITTAL OF SOVIET PRESS ARTICLE ON THE RECENT BELGIAN REFERENDUM ON THE RESTORATION OF KING LEOPOLD

ACTION EUR*

INFO DCR OLI* IE EUR/X scm

There are enclosed in condensed translation copies of the article, cited in the reference telegram, which appeared in Trud on March 23, 1950 under the title "The Belgian People against the Return of the King".

The article treats the question in the standard Soviet and Communist terms of Leopold's war record, US-inspired reactionary support for his restoration, and popular opposition to it exemplified by the Communist position. Its general tone and content would seem to imply considerable Soviet satisfaction with the possibilities of continuing internal dissension, disruption of the economy by strikes, etc., resulting from the close outcome of the recent referendum.

The enclosure is of course unclassified.

For The Ambassador,

Brewster H. Morris
Counselor of Embassy

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1950 APR 7 PM 6 49
DC/R
RECORDS BRANCH

Enclosure:
Soviet Press Article

CC: Brussels

FSArmstrong/gl 3/29/50

755.00/4-150

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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MOSCOW PRAVDA (Cont'd) It is difficult for genuine literature and art to make their way in the USA. Instead perverted, decadent painting, vulgar jazz and cheap novels enjoy patronage. Under the aegis of Wall Street, mysticism and charlatan sciences are flourishing in contemporary America...

In the United States the cheerless, remote provinces begins almost with the suburbs of the capital, N. Vasilyev indicates. The provincialness is indicated in the vacuous life of the American inhabitants, in vulgar "beauty contests" and in complete ignorance about their own country. Even less do some "average Americans" know about the external world, and still less about the Soviet Union. Their knowledge is most often limited to the latest reports of reactionary newspapers and radio commentators...

But the author of the book sees how, within the US, in spite of the orgy of reaction and in spite of the ideological torpor of the American people, the forces of progress are growing; anti-war and anti-imperialist sentiments are growing among the masses. The policy of Wall Street is evoking the opposition of progressive forces in the USA which express the true interests of the American people. "Progressively minded people can be met everywhere", writes N. Vasilyev.

N. Vasilyev's book, "America from the Backdoor", acquaints the reader with the true essence of the "American way of life" - ruthlessness towards the working people, ignorance, and hypocrisy. It exposes the myth of the superiority of the "American way of life". It shows that the advanced people of America feel the necessity of liberating their country from the power of the dollar and from the dominion of the Wall Street marauders.
(2 cols.) (Condensed text) MOSCOW PRAVDA 23.3.50.

RED STAR

"A POLICE LAW DIRECTED AGAINST THE AMERICAN PEOPLE"
Indignation in the USA over the Fascist Mundt Bill

NEW YORK. March 22. TASS. The campaign of protest against the fascist Mundt bill is spreading in the USA. The New York Council of Workers in Science and Art has published a statement calling for the unconditional rejection of the Mundt bill. If the Mundt bill is adopted, says this statement, a fascist principle will be introduced into American laws...

The "Daily Worker" points out that the Mundt bill is directed not only against progressive organisations in the USA, but also against the whole American labour movement.

"The National Association of Manufacturers and the Chamber of Commerce, of which Mundt is a representative", writes the "Daily Worker", "are now advocating this bill which prohibits trade unions from defending such 'Communist' goals as housing for the homeless, medical care for the sick, and pensions for the unemployed"...

John Williamson, member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, notes in the "Daily Worker" that the Mundt bill is a police law directed against the American people...

The American press reports a wide protest movement against the Mundt bill among local trade union organisations and individual progressive groups.
(½ col.) (Condensed text) RED STAR 23.3.50.

THE BELGIAN PEOPLE AGAINST THE RETURN OF THE KING

International Diary By D. Semenov

The Belgian press continues to comment widely on the results of the referendum on the "question of the monarchy" which was held on March 12.

It is common knowledge that in May 1940, when the Hitlerite Hordes invaded Belgium, Leopold personally signed the shameful Act on the Capitulation of the Army. Refusing to head the struggle against the occupation forces, he preferred to give himself up as the "prisoner" of the Hitlerites. During the war he repeatedly sent congratulatory telegrams to Hitler and went to meet him.

On the eve of the country's liberation, fearing the just wrath of the people, Leopold fled with the retreating Nazis and his conduct earned the praise of the "Fuhrer". All these facts are well known to the Belgian working people who very well understand that Leopold's return entirely accords with the plans of the ractionary forces which are seeking to implant fascism in the country. It is for this reason that the Belgian people is fighting resolutely against Leopold's return to power. And it is for this reason that reactionary circles, intimidated by the growth of the forces of democracy, by the mighty Movement for peace and friendship with the Soviet Union, are striving for the return of the King.

The US ruling circles are also advocating Leopold's return. Leopold is a valuable find for the American claimants to world domination. They hope that he will resolutely oppose the struggle of the masses of the people for peace and will joyfully turn his palace into a branch of the White House.

Because of the severe deterioration of the Belgian economic position caused by Belgian participation in the "Marshall Plan", the struggle over the question of Leopold's return has become particularly acute. It is fully understandable that the burden of the advancing economic crisis rests mainly on the shoulders of the working people. The burden of swiftly growing military expenditure is added to the burdens of an economic nature. To finance the excessive arms programme dictated by Washington, the government has taken a number of decisions on the abolition of unemployment relief, on the reduction of pensions for disabled persons and for the sick, on an increase in taxation etc. Because of this, dissatisfaction with the policy of the ruling circles which are driving the Belgian people into the abyss of crisis and military adventures is growing in the country. The reactionary forces count on resorting to methods of terrorism and of yet more cruel suppression of the democratic forces. For these purposes, Leopold would be the most suitable person.

The right-wing Socialists are giving invaluable aid to Catholic and liberal reaction. Fearing that the popular movement against Leopold's return should become a united front of working people for the struggle for peace, for their rights, they are attempting in every way to restrict the participation of the masses in this movement.

TRUD (Cont'd)

Using the treacherous position of the "Socialists" and making a deal with the leading clique of the Liberal Party, Catholic reaction succeeded in obtaining the passage by parliament of the bill on the holding of a referendum.

The reactionaries, in preparing for the referendum, placed their main wager on various fascist organisations which began a campaign of terrorism and intimidation of democratically inclined citizens throughout the country...

A particular role in the agitation campaign which preceded the referendum was that of the Catholic priests who attempted to scare the faithful with "the punishment of God". The reactionaries spent more than 100,000,000 francs on agitation and bribery in favour of Leopold.

But despite fascist terrorism and the intensive campaign of the Catholic church, the referendum showed that more than 42% of voters opposed Leopold's return. The large number of spoilt ballot papers, which is also evidence of the unwillingness of the population to vote for Leopold, attracts attention.

Referring to the results of the referendum the right-wing Belgian press cannot conceal its disappointment and consternation. In essence, the referendum decided nothing. The majority of papers cast doubt upon the possibility of Leopold's return to a country where about half the population is resolutely against him...

The fact that the Belgian government, discussing the position after the referendum, could not reach any decision and resigned is evidence of this.

As the secretary general of the Belgian Communist Party, Jean Terfwe, stated, the referendum does not mean the cessation of the struggle of progressive forces against reaction. The struggle will continue with unflagging intensity. The talks begun by Prime Minister Eyskens with Leopold in Switzerland have caused a new outburst of indignation among the working people. Protests against the return of the king are arriving from all parts of the country. The General Federation of Belgian Working People, the National Committee for action against Leopold's return, the National Federation of Socialist Youth, the "Belgian people's youth", the "Independence front" and a number of other organisations have made protests.

Judging from recent reports, a mighty strike movement is growing in the country. About 100,000 Walloon workers are already striking as a sign of protest against the return of the king. The miners of Liege and Charleroi have stopped work completely. The strike has embraced hundreds of enterprises in the glass, building, zinc, metallurgical and electrical industries. The workers of the arms factory at Herstal have not gone to work.

The democratic forces of Belgium are continuing their resolute struggle against reaction which is calculating on strengthening its positions with the aid of King Leopold.

(1½ cols.) (Slightly condensed) TRUD 23.3.50

SECTION A

23rd March, 1950

RED FLEET

THE FAILURE OF ANGLO-AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN THE NORTH
On the 30th Anniversary of the Expulsion of the Interventionists and White Guards from the Soviet North
By I. Zolin

30 years have elapsed since the complete expulsion of the Anglo-American-French interventionists and their lackeys - the White Guards - from the last port in the Soviet north, Murmansk. On March 13 1920 the third regiment of the 1st division of Soviet troops triumphantly entered the town. On March 21 a district congress of Soviets which fully restored the organs of the Soviet administration of the town and adjoining raions began in Murmansk. A most important stage of the heroic struggle of the Soviet people against the enemy's invasion of the north of Russia culminated in the expulsion of the interventionists from Murmansk.

The imperialists of Britain, France, the USA and Japan began the struggle against the Republic of the Soviets from the first days of the October Revolution...

The spirit and organiser of the war against Soviet Russia was Churchill - one of the contemporary warmongers.

The conclusion of the brest peace and the consolidation of Soviet regime as a result of its revolutionary-economic measures at a time when the war in the west was still at its height, caused the greatest alarm among the imperialists...

The former allies of Tsarist Russia took every measure to move the Soviet people to continue the war against the Germans...

Some of the most active inspirers of intervention were the American imperialists, headed by President Wilson. The US Ambassador to Soviet Russia, Francis, later wrote in his memoirs with cynical frankness: "I think that we did everything possible to prepare for allied intervention"..

The plan of the Anglo-American imperialists which was hatched in London, Washington and Paris, failed completely. The Soviet people, which rose under the leadership of V. I. Lenin and J. V. Stalin for the patriotic war, expelled the interventionists from the north.

In 30 years distant and uninhabited Murman has been turned into a densely populated krai, with a highly developed industry and large-scale socialist agriculture.

Seventeen years ago, on the intitiative of Comrade Stalin, the Navy, which has become a terrible fighting force, was formed for the defence of the Soviet north. During the Great Patriotic War, the seamen of the Northern Fleet showed themselves devoted patriots of their Motherland. Not sparing their lives, they courageously defended Soviet Zapolyarie and in close cooperation with the troops of the Soviet army, they kept the enemy out of Murmansk.

The Anglo-American warmongers are again preparing for a new military campaign against the Soviet country. It is useful to remind them of the complete collapse of the military attack by international capital on the country of the Soviets in the years of foreign military intervention and in the Civil War. It is also useful to recall that now the camp of peace, which relies on the might of the Soviet Union, is incomparably stronger than the camp of war.

(2¼ cols.) (Excerpts)

RED FLEET.. 23.3.50